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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE NEWS

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SOUTHERN EXPOSURE 15

On July 21st through 23rd, the NRC participated in the first portions of the Southern Exposure 2015 (SE-15) Exercise. Centered on the simulated accident and radiological release from the H.B. Robinson nuclear plant, the NRC, the State of South Carolina, and multiple Federal agencies responded to the event with a level of exercise participation that included approximately 2000 participants. From the deployment and coordination with Department of Energy of radiological monitoring assets, to multiple aspects of FEMA supported incident

management structures, the NRC participated in many aspects of response that are normally only simulated during the traditional exercise program.

The exercise will continue on September 9th and 10th with a recovery tabletop exercise in Florence, SC. The recovery tabletop exercise will focus on housing, agricultural, and economic recovery issues at 6 months and 18 months after the initial accident.

Activities will continue for the next several months and culminate in the issuance of an interagency after-action report by FEMA near the end of 2015.

Initial observations made by the NRC following the July 21st - 23rd portion of the SE - 15 exercise include the following: the need to better understand how Joint Information Center functions in relationship with other incident management entities; how the newly formed Nuclear Radiological Incident Task Force will support the Federal response at FEMA's National Response Coordination Center; and how Federal coordination of the event will be handled by the NRC and FEMA. The NRC's Incident Response Program will also generate an internal after-action report to capture observations and lessons-learned that will be used to improve the agency's own program.

Update On The Revision To NUREG 0654/FEMA-REP-1



The Draft Revision 2 of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1 is currently available for public comment at www.regulations.gov, docket number FEMA-2012-0026. Based on initial feedback received from stakeholders, the NRC and FEMA have agreed to extend the comment period until October 13, 2015. NRC and FEMA staff will subsequently begin evaluating and adjudicating all comments submitted once the comment period closes.

To further facilitate stakeholder engagement, on July 16, 2015, the NRC held a public meeting with nuclear industry representatives

to discuss the proposed changes to emergency response organization staffing and augmentation guidance in Table B-1 of NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1. The meeting provided an opportunity for NRC staff to discuss the basis for changes to Table B-1 and answer questions from industry representatives.

In addition, The preliminary draft of the new NRC Emergency Preparedness (EP) Handbook was made publicly available in May 2015. The document is the NRC's companion document to NUREG-0654/FEMA-REP-1. The agency expects to issue a draft version for formal public comment later in 2015, as well as provide opportunities for the public engagement of key stakeholders in the near future.

Decommissioning Update

EP Exemptions and License Amendments Issued



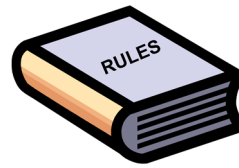
As noted in the last edition of *EPR News*, exemptions were granted and license amendments were approved for the Crystal River 3 and San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station

Permanently Decommissioned Emergency Plans (PDEP) and Emergency Action Level Schemes. In support of these licensing actions, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has transmitted letters to the Governors of Florida and California, informing them these exemptions allow the licensee "to discontinue offsite radiological emergency preparedness (REP) activities, and as a result, no longer requires FEMA to review, monitor, and report activities associated with offsite radiological emergency planning and preparedness...."

The final of the four currently decommissioning plants seeking approval of their exemption and supporting license amendment request for Vermont Yankee Power Station (VY) PDEP and EAL Scheme, continues to undergo staff safety evaluation.

However, on July 31, 2015, NRC staff issued a letter of Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) concerning Entergy's request for exemption from certain portions of 10 CFR 50.47 and 10 CFR 50 Appendix E, for VY, which was published in the *Federal Register* on August 7, 2015. The staff concluded that the licensee's requested action would not result in any environmental impacts because there would be no increase in the hazards at the site, no decrease in public safety, no additional effluents, and no increase in the potential for or consequences of accidents.

Reactor Decommissioning Rulemaking



In SECY-15-0014, "Anticipated Schedule and Estimated Resources for a Power Reactor Decommissioning Rulemaking," dated January 30, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15082A089 - redacted), the NRC staff committed to proceed with a rulemaking on decommissioning and provided an anticipated schedule and estimate of the resources required for the completion of a decommissioning rulemaking, as directed by the Commission in Staff Requirement Memorandum (SRM) SECY-14-0118 (ADAMS Accession Number ML14364A111). A rulemaking group has been established that includes NRC staff from NRR, NSIR, NMSS and RES. Key milestones have been developed to support the goal of completion of an integrated decommissioning rulemaking effort in 2019. Near-term milestones include issuance of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) in August 2015, and a public meeting to obtain stakeholder input on proposed rulemaking topics and approaches. The schedule provides for a draft regulatory basis to be completed in September 2016, followed by development of the proposed rule in 2017.

Small Modular Reactors Policy Paper

On August 4, 2015, the Commission approved the staff's recommendation to initiate a rulemaking to revise regulations and guidance for emergency preparedness (EP) for small modular reactors (SMRs) and other new technologies, such as non-light-water reactors (non-LWRs) and medical isotope production facilities. The staff proposed the SMR rulemaking in SECY-15-0077, "Options for Emergency Preparedness for Small Modular Reactors and Other New Technologies," ADAMS Accession Number ML15054A139. For potential SMR reviews conducted prior to the publication of the final rule, the staff would adapt an approach to emergency planning zones for SMRs under existing exemption processes, in parallel with its rulemaking efforts.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

- ◆ National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) Annual Forum, September 28 to October 1, 2015, Miami, FL.
- ◆ International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference, November 13 - 18, 2015, Clark County, NV.
- ◆ National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference (NREP) Annual Conference, May 2 - 5, 2016, Charleston, S.C.